

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

## *Minutes*

October 25, 2018

### Commission Members Present:

Reverend Turner  
Joan Hash  
Bianca Chang  
Bob Ford  
Kui Zhao

### Commission Members Absent:

Scott Markow  
Shivani Aghera  
Peter Hwang  
Shiraz Ahmed  
Hector Garcia

### Staff:

Stephanie Chapple, Recording Secretary  
Dr. Barbara J. Sands, HRC Executive Secretary

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Commissioner Bianca opened the meeting until Chair Turner arrived.

#### 2. PUBLIC FORUM – Steve Charing, Howard County citizen

#### 3. APPROVE MINUTES – Due to lack of quorum, September minutes will be discussed during November meeting.

#### 4. CHAIR’S REPORT – Chair Turner asked Dr. Sands for status update on the play “Disgraced.” Dr. Sands indicated that the play is no longer up for discussion because the playwright was of the opinion that the OHR/HRC were the full sponsors of the play, funding, etc. Dr. Sands clarified that OHR/HRC’s only role was to get space, to be supportive of the production by emailing fliers to our contacts and share information about the play. The playwright indicated that if he was the sole sponsor of the play, he was no longer interested in putting on the production. Chair Turner is interested in having HRC participate in Legislation Day, a day where Howard County public schools gain a better understanding of the legislative process. Per Chair Turner, participating in this process will allow young people, as well as, educate the next generation on who we are (HRC), what we do, and how we serve the citizens of the county. Discussion will be held at November meeting. Dr. Sands will speak with the director of Diversity at HCPSS, Dr. Kevin Gilbert, and report back to the group next month.

#### 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS - Please review reports prior to the meeting. If you have any questions regarding the reports submitted, please bring your questions to the meeting. (\*\*Reports submitted)

- ❖ Finance and Fair Lending with Housing – Scott/Shiraz – No report.
- ❖ \*\*Legislation – Bob/Kui – No report. Dr. Sands will provide the Commissioners a copy of the county’s legislative report which lists resolutions, pending items, what the Council voted on, & re-appointments voted on by the Council. Commissioner Kui will continue to submit her Legislative report and updates bi-monthly which includes county, state and federal information. Commissioner Kui also summarizes those areas which are relevant to employment, education and housing.
- ❖ Education, Public Safety and Student Life Committee – Reverend Turner, Shivani – No report.
- ❖ HRC Awards Committee – Bianca/Hector – No report. Per Bianca, as the holiday season approaches, please consider nominating, or circulate nomination forms to those members and organizations in your community who are advocating for human rights of all citizens.
- ❖ Human Trafficking Committee – Peter, Shiraz and Joan – No report. Per Commissioner Joan, Dr. Sands will provide information to members regarding upcoming meetings, etc. Per Dr. Sands, HT conference/Fall Forum is tomorrow at HCC, 9a – 4p. The group “Grandmother’s Cry” is receiving KITS for victims. Commissioners, please consider donating more KITS for victims. A list of items needed will be re-sent via email to everyone.
- ❖ \*\*LGBTQ Committee – Bob – Please see Bob’s written report.
- ❖ \*\*Aging, Disability and Health Care Committee – Bianca – Commissioner Bianca reinforced to members to please inform your networks, neighbors, etc. to register for healthcare for 2019 if they don’t have benefits from their employers. This Saturday, Wilde Lake Village center will host a Drug and Shop Take-back from 10a – 2p.m.
- ❖ \*\*HRC Goals Committee – Peter, Bianca, Reverend Turner – Per. Dr. Sands, the idea behind the HRC correspondence that was sent to numerous community groups, was for HRC members to attend a community meeting, share information on the role of HRC, and for those groups to have a contact person within HRC. Community leaders were also invited to attend an HRC meeting, if interested. Commissioner Joan suggested

that Committee Chair Peter would scope out a plan when meeting with the groups. To date, PFLAG, Friends of Latin America, and the Columbia Jewish Congregation have responded. Chair Turner will reach out to Commissioners Peter and Hector to request that each member be assigned to one or two organizations, regardless if the organization responded (or not) to the initial correspondence. This will begin the relationship building between HRC and those groups. It is Chair Turner's hope that members will become familiar with the group by reinforcing what the letter stated, and will also add a familiar face/point-of-contact for the HRC. Commissioner Joan is requesting the Community Outreach Sub-committee members to draft a plan for all members to follow when meeting with the groups and organizations. Per. Dr. Sands, the OHR/HRC brochure is being translated in Chinese, Spanish and Korean. Dr. Sands thanked Bianca for her work in assisting with the translation in Chinese. Chair Turner will follow-up with Peter and Hector via email.

- ❖ Ad-Hoc / Nominating Committee – Peter, Joan, Shivani – No report. Per Joan, two students' names were forwarded to the County Executive for consideration for the student position. All confirmation and appointments will resume when the new Council members are seated. Correspondence regarding this process for the delay in confirmations was emailed to all student applicants. Per Commissioner Joan and Dr. Sands, during the next election, members should consider going before the Council to continue the appointment of student positions on time, to avoid delay in their appointment. Students serve a one year term, and therefore, will miss a large portion of their term serving, if they are appointed after the designated appointed time (July 1 through June 30<sup>th</sup>).
- ❖ Community Outreach Sub-Committee – (formed following CR-180 Study) – Peter, Hector – Per Dr. Sands, the Indivisible Immigration Act Group is a political group which focuses on whether documented or undocumented immigrants receive fair treatment, or, if they are able to file a discrimination charge. OHR honors the complaint of everyone who lives and/or works in the county, and will continue to complete a full investigation.

5. STUDENT REPORT – No report.

6. STAFF REPORT – See Dr. Sands written report. OHR is trying to become a FHAP agency (Fair Housing Assistance Program). Chair Turner suggested inviting a representative from the Housing Department to an upcoming HRC meeting, to discuss current laws as it relates to housing. This will offer members a better understanding of proposed changes being considered in the law for future reference. Dr. Sands will confirm date/time of Narcan training for those members who may be interested. Possible date for training will be November. Will confirm.

7. CLOSED SESSION – **N/A**

8. NEW BUSINESS – Commissioner Kui asked Bob to give debriefing on MAHRA training held today. Per Commissioner Bob, training was very informative and educational. Three components discussed were: (1) Hate Bias, (2) Sexual Harassment, and (3) Courageous Conversations (Cultural Diversity, Acceptance, Awareness, and Inclusivity.) OHR will donate packaged food/lunch items to the homeless as initiative for Thanksgiving. Commissioners will discuss holiday plans for those in need, during the November meeting.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS –

**11/3** – Howard County's Black pioneers from 1800-1965, G. Howard Building, from 11a – 1:30 p.m. Program will lift up six of the oldest churches in the county, with pictures and historical artifacts of the original edifice of the buildings. Light refreshments will be served.

**12/26-** KWANZAA celebration, sponsored by OHR, will be held 6 p.m., G. Howard Building. Free and open to the public, all are welcome.

10. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.